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Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
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W
I   Wisconsin
N   Information
S   Network for
S   Successful
Schools

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

Dear Wisconsin Citizens...

The Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS) is an interactive website that focuses on improving schools. Its primary mission is to act as an informational resource to assist school communities in educating the hearts and minds of all children.

The WINSS website contains four areas. *Standards and assessment* outlines what we expect students to know and be able to do and how well they are doing. *Data analysis* allows you to search a database of information about the state's 426 school districts. *Continuous school improvement* describes the characteristics of successful schools and offers a five-step process for improvement. *Best practices* offers exemplary school programs and practices for each of the successful school characteristics.

As the public seeks ever-greater accountability for its tax dollars, WINSS provides a barometer of how well our public schools are doing. And that is important even in the state that is the nation's leader when it comes to K-12 education.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Burmaster

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

The Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools contains four areas:

STANDARDS and ASSESSMENT

Standards describe our expectations of students. Academic standards describe the knowledge and skills students should develop though classroom instruction. Standards of the heart address behavioral expectations for students as we help them develop into caring, contributing, productive, and responsible citizens. Assessments determine how well students are meeting expectations.

This section outlines Wisconsin's expectations for students and provides ideas, information, and tools to assess progress as we strive to educate the hearts and minds of all students.

DATA analysis

Successful school communities use data to help students meet and exceed expectations. Data provide one basis for identifying areas of excellence, areas of need, possible explanations for issues/problems, and possible strategies for improvement.

This section uses questions, graphs, and tables arranged so users can see the information data can provide. Links are offered to local websites, where available, for more information about your school.

continuous SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Successful schools are dynamic places with high expectations for everyone. Effective improvements are planned and built around goals that educators, parents, and other community members know and support.

This section describes the characteristics of a successful school as well as ideas and tools to help school communities in the improvement process.

best PRACTICES

Knowing what a successful school is and being one are two different things. As a school community strives to be its best, this section will help answer key questions related to implementing each of the following seven characteristics of a successful school:

- vision
- leadership
- high academic standards
- standards of the heart
- family, school, and community partnerships
- professional development
- evidence of success